



LETTER OF INTEREST

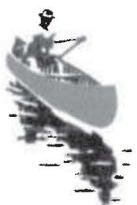
DATE: 03/04/2014

TO: The Honorable Marlene Dortch - Secretary
Federal Communications Commission

PROJECT: Rural Broadband Experiment
WC Docket #10-90

Please be advised that the City of Old Town, Maine is interested in the potential Rural Broadband Experiment. There are several items listed below that I believe make this area a prime candidate for a trial;

- (1) OLD TOWN and ORONO are among the communities in Maine now served by the so-called Three Ring Binder, a high capacity, open-access fiber optic network that serves as the so-called "middle mile" of the high speed Internet network; and
- (2) The Three Ring Binder is now available to Internet service providers, municipalities, and others for extension into communities and neighborhoods; and
- (3) In 2011 OLD TOWN and ORONO each joined with the University of Maine (UMAINE) as members of The University Community Next Generation Innovation Project, also known as Gig.U, a nationwide effort by a consortium of research universities and their host communities to accelerate the introduction of ultra high speed Internet services to the host communities; and
- (4) In 2012, in response to a Request for Information issued by Gig.U to Internet Service Providers nationally, GWI of Biddeford in cooperation with UMAINE, OLD TOWN, and ORONO announced its interest in launching Gigabit Main Street, a pilot project to connect businesses and homes in OLD TOWN and ORONO to the high speed fiber network; and



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(5) Before such connections can be made to businesses and homes, the fiber optic network must first be extended to the streets and neighborhoods in which the businesses and homes are located – an extension known as the “last mile”; and

(6) It has become clear that in small town and rural environments, in order to better enable Internet Service Providers such as GWI and others to connect fiber to businesses and homes, there is both a necessity and an advantage for municipalities to install the “last mile” of dark fiber and to make this “last mile” available for lease and activation by the Internet Service Providers; and

(7) Networkmaine is a unit of the University of Maine System providing the state’s research and development community with access to high speed connectivity; was an initiator of the Three Ring Binder; and is a key resource in the implementation of the goals of Gig.U in Maine.

Based on this letter, please accept this as an expression of interest on Rural Broadband Experiment WC Docket #10-90.

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